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OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Report of the First Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Latin American and Caribbean Region
Santiago, Chile, 28 September-2 October 1987

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CHAPTER I

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION BY THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS

1. The First Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Latin American and Caribbean Region, recommended to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

I. Measures for improving co-operation and co-ordination in combating drug abuse in the region

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Taking into account the growing threat of the illicit drug traffic and drug abuse which increasingly endangers the health and safety of the people of all nations, including those of the Latin American and Caribbean region,

Recognizing the paramount importance of international drug control treaties for improving co-operation and co-ordination in the suppression of drug abuse at all levels,

Recognizing also that national and international co-operation in the suppression of drug abuse could be substantially improved if reports for submission to the United Nations under those treaties and reports vital to the work of other international organizations, such as the International Criminal Police Organization, the Organization of American States and the South American Agreement on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, were submitted regularly, promptly and in proper form,

1. Urges all States that have not already done so to accede to the existing international treaties;

2. Also urges States parties to the treaties to improve, where necessary and to the extent possible, the regularity and quality of their reporting under the treaties, paying particular attention to the regular, timely submission of annual reports by Governments and to the submission of an appropriate report in the case of every important seizure of illicit drugs, as required by article 18 of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961 and by article 16 of the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances;

3. Further urges States members of all international organizations concerned with drug control to improve, when it is possible for them to do so, the quality of their reports and, in general, their provision of information to those organizations.

II. Development of investigation techniques and methods

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Aware that in international efforts to control the illicit trade in drugs it is often only the small-scale dope runners and pedlars who are arrested, and that these individuals have no idea of the place where the drugs originate or of the identity of the chemists and manufacturers who produce them,

Aware also of the need to develop scientific research methods and techniques that would permit identification of the origin of the drugs seized, the essential chemicals used in their manufacture, and other details of interest,

Considering that it is possible to carry out an exhaustive quantitative and qualitative analysis of the component elements of the drugs, their impurities and other features which would be useful for determining their place of origin, production characteristics, and the modus operandi involved,

Bearing in mind that there are countries which have the technical and financial means for carrying out these scientific investigations,

1. Urges the Latin American and Caribbean countries to develop scientific techniques and methods to determine the place of origin of drugs, the manufacturing characteristics, and the modus operandi involved;

2. Requests the countries that develop the above-mentioned techniques and methods of research and chemical analysis to communicate their findings to the other States, through the Secretary-General of the United Nations, so that they can be widely disseminated.

III. Co-operation through training programmes

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Noting that the Division of Narcotic Drugs has supported the Latin American and Caribbean countries in their campaign against the illicit drug traffic by organizing the First Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies in that region,

Being firmly of the opinion that the sub-regional, regional and continental agencies could unite their own co-ordinated efforts with those of the United Nations in order to make action against the illicit drug traffic more effective,

Recalling the programme of the Regional Centre for Training of Instructors to Combat the Illicit Traffic in Drugs, set up within the framework of the South American Agreement on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (ASEP) and based at the headquarters of the Peruvian Criminal Investigation Department, for the training of police personnel of the signatory States of ASEP,

Convinced that it is necessary to translate countries' good intentions into precise and co-ordinated action in order to strengthen the campaign against the illicit drug traffic,

1. Recommends that the sub-regional, regional and continental agencies adopt a co-ordinated approach to strengthening the campaign against the illicit drug traffic, with the technical, financial and scientific support of the United Nations;

2. Recommends also that the Regional Centre for Training of Instructors to Combat the Illicit Traffic in Drugs, within the framework of the South American Agreement on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and with the complementary support and aid of the Inter-American Commission for Drug Abuse Control, extend its training activities to those Latin American and Caribbean countries which require them;

3. Urges the relevant national agencies, when presenting candidates for training in any field connected with the control of drug abuse, to try to ensure that personnel who have received such training continue to work in that field for not less than two years.

IV. Harmonization of the laws of different countries

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Noting that the draft convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, which is currently being considered for adoption in 1988, cannot be properly implemented unless Parties adapt their national legislation to the provisions envisaged in it,

Urges member States to take the necessary measures to bring their national legislation into line with the provisions of that draft convention.

V. Course on multilateral international conventions against illicit traffic in drugs

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Convinced that the effectiveness of agencies combating illicit traffic in drugs depends essentially on the level of training of their personnel,

Convinced also that in order to improve international co-operation it is imperative that the personnel of such agencies have a sound training in the international legal instruments that concern illicit drug traffic,

Recalling the kind offer made by the Criminal Investigation Department of Chile to organize, in 1988, a training course on international conventions against illicit traffic in drugs, in co-operation with the United Nations and the Organization of American States,

1. Agrees that such a course should be held for the staff of all civil and military organizations in the Americas and the Caribbean engaged in combating the illicit traffic in drugs;

2. Requests the Criminal Investigation Department of Chile to organize the course, at Santiago, in 1988;

3. Requests the Division of Narcotic Drugs to provide the necessary funds for the travel and subsistence of those attending the course;

4. Invites the Division of Narcotic Drugs, the International Narcotics Control Board and the Inter-American Commission for Drug Abuse Control to participate in teaching the course.

VI. South American Agreement on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Aware that in order to suppress the illicit drug traffic at the international level, the police of all countries must work together,

Aware also, however, that co-operation among police authorities is made difficult by the discrepancies that exist in the laws of different countries and by the absence of adequate international legal instruments,

Recalling that the South American Agreement on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, signed at Buenos Aires on 27 November 1973, contains provisions permitting international police co-operation for the suppression of the drug traffic, especially through the national offices of the International Criminal Police Organization,

Recommends to the Central American and Caribbean countries that they adhere to the aforementioned provisions.

VII. Measures to improve co-operation among organizations operating in the Americas

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Mindful that, in its strategies and policies, the United Nations system acknowledges and encourages the action of concerned regional and intergovernmental organizations, and that this action is supported also by the international community in general,

Noting the emergence and development of various multilateral organizations devoted to the campaign against drug trafficking and abuse, as well as of subsidiary bodies and working groups of the Commission itself,

Noting also how other organizations are expanding their activities to cover the problem of drugs,

Convinced that the activities of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, other concerned United Nations bodies and other entities in the Americas make necessary a meeting of the directors of such bodies to harmonize co-ordination and co-operation measures designed to further their common objectives and to facilitate the best possible use of their existing human and financial resources,

1. Recommends the holding of a meeting of organizations combating drug trafficking and abuse in the Americas (including inter-American, regional and sub-regional bodies) in order to harmonize understanding on matters of policy co-ordination, co-operation, and the implementation of joint programmes;

2. Requests the Permanent Secretariat of the South American Agreement on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and the Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission on Drug Abuse Control to collaborate with the United Nations in co-sponsoring and making the necessary arrangements to hold the meeting, in the first half of 1988;

3. Urges the countries that participated in the First Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Latin American and Caribbean Region, to give their fullest support to these measures.

VIII. International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Conscious of the importance of both the Declaration and the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control adopted by the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (Vienna 1987),

Aware of the need to take the necessary action to fulfil the objectives of the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline,

1. Invites the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to take suitable measures to fulfil those objectives;

2. Urges the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to take the principles embodied in the Declaration of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking into account in future international conventions, conferences or treaties and to adopt them as the region's position on related matters.

IX. Place and date of the Second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Latin American and Caribbean Region

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Convinced of the importance of holding annual meetings of the Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA),

Noting with gratitude the invitation of the Government of Peru to host at Lima a Second Meeting of HONLEA for the Latin American and Caribbean Region,

Requests the Economic and Social Council to authorize the holding of a Second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Latin American and Caribbean Region, at Lima in the second half of 1988.

CHAPTER II

CURRENT TRENDS IN THE ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFIC

2. In its consideration of agenda item 3, "Current trends in the illicit drug traffic", the meeting had before it the following documents prepared by the Division of Narcotic Drugs: "Situation and trends in drug abuse and the illicit traffic" (E/CN.7/1987/9); "Review of the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances during 1985" (E/CN.7/1987/10); "Data on the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances during 1985" (E/CN.7/1987/CRP.6); "Quarterly summary of reports of significant seizures of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances received by the Secretary-General from 1 January to 31 March 1987" (E/NS/1987/Summary 1); and "Quarterly summary of reports of significant seizures of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances received by the Secretary-General from 1 April to 30 June 1987" (E/NS/1987/Summary 2).

3. The Director of the Division said that the item related to the exchange of information on illicit traffic trends in each country represented at the meeting. Noting that the data available to the Division were for 1986 and earlier, he stressed the need for more up-to-date information.

4. Describing the situation in their own countries, most representatives said that the problem of drug abuse and the illicit traffic had become more severe, particularly where coca and its derivatives were concerned. Some noted that their countries were primarily transit countries, but all representatives recognized with concern the likelihood that drug abuse and other grave problems related to drug trafficking would increase among the local populations of the transit countries. Many described measures taken at the national level to cope with the problem, including the adoption of new laws and government structures, provisions for centralized action, and campaigns supported by the armed forces. It was generally agreed that international co-operation was essential and needed to be strengthened at both regional and global levels.

5. The representative of Uruguay said that addiction had increased in his country. He described the situation with respect to cannabis and psychotropic substances and noted that new instances of cocaine and heroine consumption had been detected. He identified various natural products whose abuse could be a hazard to health. A national prevention and rehabilitation campaign had been undertaken in educational centres. Under Uruguayan law, an addict was not considered a delinquent.

6. The representative of Argentina reported an increase in the trafficking of illicit drugs produced abroad. The consumption of marihuana and cocaine had increased, but abuse of psychotropic substances had remained at the same level. Minors in urban areas persisted in abusing inhalents. The number of seizures resulting from a joint effort on the part of forces engaged in the struggle against illicit trafficking had grown.

7. The representative of Colombia said the increasing threat of drug traffic and abuse could not be averted by action taken by a few countries working in isolation. The traffic, so long as the international community did not confront it head-on, would persist and continue to claim victims. There was a need, therefore, for genuine regional and global solidarity which would facilitate the assumption of joint responsibilities. Action at the international level, without prejudice to respect for the sovereignty of States, called for co-ordination, complementarity and the integration of activities.

8. The representative of Chile said that trafficking and consumption in Chile dated back to the 1960s and owed much to foreign influence. He described the present situation with respect to cocaine, marihuana, psychotropic substances and solvents. Chile was a transit country with limited domestic consumption. Cannabis sativa was the most widely consumed drug. Its illicit cultivation, including a hybrid variety from Colombia, had been detected. The utmost importance was attached to preventive education, provided in a series of multidisciplinary programmes.

9. The representative of Paraguay said that increases in the cultivation of marihuana and in cocaine trafficking had recently been detected. Paraguay was also being used for transit purposes. He described the routes used by the cocaine traffickers in the region, quoting statistics. He also reported on a national plan of action against drug abuse and trafficking and reaffirmed Paraguay's readiness to co-operate in strengthening regional co-operation.

10. The representative of Venezuela, describing the illicit drug trends, noted that from a transit country Venezuela had become a consumer country. He also said that its territorial integrity had been violated by foreigners who cultivated vast tracts of marihuana and coca bush. Many of these plantations had been destroyed, but in frontier areas some were difficult to reach from Venezuelan territory. His Government had taken a strong stand on the problem, including suggesting three significant initiatives: the Quito Declaration, a new convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and the New York declaration in which drug trafficking is considered to be a crime against humanity.

11. The representative of Ecuador, summarizing trends in the abuse of cocaine, marihuana and other illicit drugs, said that Ecuador was no longer just a transit country: domestic abuse was increasing, especially among young people (some under 12). The use of drugs had also become a serious threat in that it was turning addicts into a high-risk health group. The drug traffic knew no bounds; the traffickers did not hesitate to bribe or kill people who stood in their way. Co-operation and understanding among all peoples were necessary in order to act against them.

12. The representative of Peru spoke of the laws and plans adopted in his country to cope with the increasing drug problem. He noted the relationship between traffickers and subversive groups, especially those operating in jungle areas. This relationship hampered the efforts to find alternatives to the harvesting of coca leaf. He proposed a number of concrete measures for combating drug trafficking.

13. The representative of Bolivia described the mechanisms used to combat trafficking, the chief of which was a special anti-drug force. Drawing attention to the economic and social crisis facing Bolivia, he stressed the obligation of not only producer countries but also consumer countries to combat drug addiction and illicit trafficking. Bolivia hoped it could count on international support in eradicating illicit coca bush plantations. The country was determined to put an end to trafficking in its territory.

14. The representative of Costa Rica noted that in his country, in addition to an increase in the cultivation and production of marihuana, alarming amounts of cocaine had been seized, and those seizures were increasing in volume. The population, however, was becoming aware of the problem and measures were being taken to strengthen relevant laws with a view to stimulating the campaign against drug abuse.

15. The representative of the United States of America reviewed trends in the use of marihuana, cocaine and psychotropic substances in his country, as well as legislative and operational measures taken to strengthen Government efforts to deal with drug abuse and the illicit traffic. In spite of extensive campaigns aimed at eradicating drug abuse, the North American drug market continued to be the largest in the world. Increased international co-operation was imperative, he said, stressing the importance of simultaneous operations aimed at destroying the drug supply by eradicating crops and keeping essential chemicals from reaching clandestine production facilities. Educational and preventive campaigns against drug abuse also needed to be stepped up.

16. The representative of the Dominican Republic said his country's insular and geographical features made it an ideal launching pad for traffickers exploiting the routes between South and North America: immense shipments of marihuana and cocaine had recently been seized. The traffickers, however, were showing a tendency to open up new routes; a number of seizures had involved nationals of various countries in the region. Stronger measures were being taken in his country to combat the international drug traffic. Another way of life had to be found for the large number of peasants cultivating coca leaf in the Andean subregion.

17. The representative of Honduras said that his country did not produce drugs, nor were drugs used there to any significant degree. However, since Honduras was being used as a transit point for North America, a full-scale prevention campaign had been developed. All branches of the armed forces worked together in this campaign. Honduras, moreover, would answer any call for co-operation from other countries in the region.

18. The observer for the Netherlands Antilles said that increases in the transit of marihuana and cocaine, most of it bound for the United States and Europe, had been detected. There was no illicit cultivation in its territory, but since 1980 an alarming increase had been noted in the abuse of coca paste. He reported excellent co-operation with the other Caribbean islands and countries and expressed interest in the telecommunication project to be set up in the Caribbean and Central America by Interpol with support from the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC). The Netherlands Antilles gave the highest priority to international co-operation, he said.

19. The representative of Brazil said his country was much concerned with the trends in illicit traffic, in view of its vast territory and the fact that its transport and communications infrastructure was one that favoured the traffickers. Work being done by a Federal Council on Narcotic Drugs centred on four main areas: the eradication of "epadu" (Brazilian coca); the eradication of marihuana; the suppression of organized crime; and the control of chemical precursors. Satisfactory results had been achieved in connection with the last-mentioned; all producer countries were asked to monitor their production in order to foil the traffickers. The representative also referred to financial investigations being carried out by the police with the aim of confiscating traffickers' property, thereby helping to break up the larger, organized groups.

20. The representative of the Bahamas said that drug abuse in his country had spread since the mid-1970s. He described the traffic-related problems, emphasizing that the Bahamas were being used as a transit area, which constituted a grave threat for the local population. Changes introduced in the judicial branch made it possible to impose more consistent penalties on traffickers.

21. The representative of Trinidad and Tobago said that drug abuse was affecting all sectors of society and contributing to an increase in violent crimes and to the corruption of the forces of law and order. In view of the very significant increase in cocaine trafficking and use, measures had been adopted providing for severe penalties and sanctions. The campaign against drug abuse and traffic could only be successful, however, if based on regional and international co-operation.

22. The representative of Jamaica said there had been an increase in cocaine trafficking and identified a number of the measures taken to combat it. Expressing appreciation for the help received from various countries and from the United Nations, he stressed the need to strengthen international co-operation in order to solve this worldwide crisis.

23. The observer for the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) noted that the region was characterized by drug production, transit traffic and abuse. He provided figures for seizures during the first half of 1987 to illustrate the impact of cocaine in Europe. He identified the countries and places where the largest seizures had taken place, and the nationalities of those arrested. The countries of origin or production of the cocaine seized in Europe included Bolivia, Brazil and Colombia. He suggested a number of measures to enhance international co-operation. In that connection, he commended the Puerto-Rico-based Caribbean project through which 30 countries were connected in a modern telecommunications network, thanks to the support of UNFDAC. He also mentioned that Interpol was becoming increasingly interested in the area of specialized training.

24. The representative of Spain said that a decree which would strengthen regulations governing drug trafficking was pending in the Spanish Parliament. A considerable number of Spaniards had died from using drugs. The abuse of hashish coming from North Africa was an extremely serious problem. He requested representatives in whose countries cocaine paste was being used to provide information on that form of abuse as it had not yet been detected in Spain.

25. The observer for the South American Agreement on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (ASEP) described trends in drug production, trafficking and use in the region. He recalled the reasons why ASEP, at a meeting of the Latin American group held during the first Interregional HONLEA (Vienna, 1986), had proposed a HONLEA for Latin America and the Caribbean. He said that ASEP had made intensive efforts to overcome the inertia that existed between declarations of action and actual action. Among these "catalytic" efforts were the creation of the Regional Centre for Training Instructors for Counteracting the Illicit Drug Traffic (Lima) and the Regional Centre for Training in Customs Techniques for the Control of Drugs (Brasilia).

26. The Director of the Division of Narcotic Drugs recalled that a data collection system had been established in accordance with the provisions of international treaties to which most of the countries represented at the meeting were party. Those treaties constituted an extremely valuable structure for co-ordination, provided there was co-operation among countries. He asked those States which had not already dispatched their annual report for 1986 to do so before 1 December 1987, so they could be incorporated in the comprehensive report to be considered by the Commission in February 1988. He also stressed the importance of regularly dispatching reports on significant individual seizures to the Division so they could be published in the quarterly summaries.

CHAPTER III

MEASURES FOR IMPROVING CO-OPERATION IN APPLYING CO-ORDINATED COUNTER-MEASURES WITHIN THE REGION

27. In its consideration of agenda item 4, "Measures for improving co-operation in applying co-ordinated counter-measures within the region", the meeting had before it four documents prepared by the Division of Narcotic Drugs: "Measures to reduce the vulnerability of States affected by transit drug traffic" (DND/IH/1986/5); "Countermeasures to drug smuggling by sea and by air" (DND/IH/1986/7); "First Interregional Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (Interregional HONLEA)" (E/CN.7/1987/3); and the "Report of the First Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa Region" (E/CN.7/1988/3).

28. All speakers emphasized the importance of improving drug law enforcement co-operation and co-ordination at national, regional and interregional levels.

29. The observer for the Organization of American States (OAS) described the Inter-American Programme of Action of Rio de Janeiro against the Illicit Use and Production of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and Illegal Traffic. That Programme emphasized the importance of a regional assault on the supply of and demand for illicit drugs. It had recommended a wide range of actions to combat the unlawful production and supply of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including the establishment of an Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD). Formed in January 1987, CICAD, comprising 11 States, had held its first meeting in April 1987 and its second in September 1987. The next was scheduled for March 1988.

30. The representative of Chile, describing the difficulties involved in identifying the organizers of the illicit drug traffic, suggested that it should be possible from the scientific analysis of seized drugs to identify the manufacturer. He therefore proposed a recommendation for research aimed at developing scientific methods of identifying the personal stamp of chemists engaged in the manufacture of illicit drugs.

31. The observer for UNFDAC described his organization's drug control activities. UNFDAC had recently received unprecedented amounts of financial support which had enabled it to design and execute master plans for national and regional drug control. In Latin America and elsewhere the main thrust of those plans was to enable farmers whose economy was based on illicit drug cultivation to replace it by another which would afford them an improved standard of living.

32. The observer for ASEP stressed the importance to member States of the new draft convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. ASEP members had the political will to take concerted action against illicit drug trafficking and the new convention would be an important instrument in the achievement of that objective.

33. The representative of Peru stressed the need for all States that had not already done so to establish a central co-ordinating body that could lend full co-operation to the work of international organizations such as the United Nations, ASEP and CICAD. He emphasized the importance of providing full information to the central organizations.

34. The Director of the Division of Narcotic Drugs spoke of the importance of bilateral, regional and global drug control agreements and of the need for strict adherence to their provisions. The success of the international drug control agreements was dependent upon the presence of strong national co-ordination agencies. Those agencies should be equipped to report fully and regularly to the international organizations. The reports should preferably include information not only from the police but also from all other drug law enforcement agencies such as customs and gendarmerie.

35. The United States representative said that in his country, despite record seizures, drug abuse was still a major problem. An important part of the solution was to continue efforts to eradicate illicit cultivation. That could best and most cost-effectively be achieved by aerial spraying of safe herbicides. These were currently available for cannabis and opium poppy; research for a safe one for coca bush was still continuing. A second important counter-measure was to establish national and international control over the essential precursor chemicals and solvents necessary for illicit drug manufacture. A third was the destruction of the manufacturing bases: the achievement of this would necessitate simultaneous co-ordinated action by the authorities in the source countries.

36. Introducing a draft recommendation on "Measures for improving co-operation in applying co-ordinated counter-measures within the region", the representative of the United States noted that the interdiction of illicit drugs before they reached the user market required the interception and searching of targets suspected of illicit traffic. Although countries in the region had taken bilateral and multilateral steps, for which they should be commended, those measures needed to be strengthened within the region and recommended for adoption by the international community.

37. Many representatives expressed reservations concerning certain paragraphs of the draft recommendation, which, they said, might be construed to impinge upon the national sovereignty of States. Following a brief suspension of the meeting, the Director of the Division of Narcotic Drugs stated that, from everything that had been said before, it was clear to him that there was consensus in that all the countries considered that there must be a strengthening of co-ordination measures to permit the interdiction of the illicit traffic by sea and by air. There was also consensus in that all countries represented wished to see that desire embodied in the provisions of the new draft convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. In his view, the inclusion in the report of the meeting of a paragraph emphasizing the general consensus would obviate the need for further consideration of the draft recommendation. The delegate who had introduced the draft recommendation expressed agreement with the Director's proposal, which was then accepted.

38. The representative of Uruguay said that drug abuse and illicit trafficking has not yet reached alarming proportions in his country. But the meeting had provided an opportunity for him to learn from the experience of other countries. Accordingly, he could advise his Government on the taking of appropriate preventive measures.

39. The representative of Canada outlined drug control efforts in his country, including the introduction of legislation against illicit traffic. He cited cases of drug seizures and the dismantling of clandestine laboratories. He urged the meeting to define better ways of co-operating in interdicting the illicit traffic.

40. The observer for ASEP said that the United Nations system, in its strategies and policies, promoted action by regional and intergovernmental organizations and that, generally speaking, the international community adopted a similar attitude. United Nations bodies and the developed countries, particularly those that provided financial co-operation for drug control measures, must therefore give due consideration to the policies and decisions adopted by regional intergovernmental agencies possessing internationally recognized legal status, through multilateral treaties that reflected the positions of the Governments of the region. The established bilateral mechanisms - of acknowledged value - must function as instruments to strengthen regional integration, as expressed through multilateral understandings.

41. ASEP therefore recommended that a meeting be held between the heads of organizations involved in drug control activities in the Americas, with a view to improving co-ordination of their policies and co-operation in the implementation of their programmes so as to make optimum use of their meagre human and financial resources.

42. One representative introduced a draft resolution entitled "South American Agreement on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances" which recommended that the Central America and Caribbean countries adhere to the provisions contained in that Agreement. (For the text, see chapter I, draft resolution VI).

CHAPTER IV

CO-OPERATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION OF MORE EFFECTIVE ACTION AGAINST THE ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFIC THROUGH TRAINING PROGRAMMES

43. In its consideration of agenda item 5, "Co-operation in the development and promotion of more effective action against the illicit drug traffic through training programmes", the meeting had before it a note of the same title prepared by the Division of Narcotic Drugs (HONLAC/1987/2).

44. The item was introduced by the Director of the Division, who outlined aspects of the Division's training programmes. He said that, in conjunction with an Inter-agency Meeting on Co-ordination in Matters of International Drug Abuse Control, held at Vienna on 16 and 17 September 1987, he had met with representatives of Interpol and the Customs Co-operation Council (CCC) to review co-operation with respect to training in the field of drug law enforcement.

45. He would be meeting with the heads of those two bodies on a regular basis, most likely at sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, to review training programme methodologies. The Division had been receiving requests for training in the identification and analysis of drugs of abuse, drug control administration, and forfeiture of the assets of convicted drug traffickers. He invited participants to assess their countries' training needs and to formulate appropriate recommendations, which he would bring to the attention of the competent United Nations bodies. He pledged the Division's full support for training activities designed for States in Latin America and the Caribbean.

46. One representative, referring to specific paragraphs of the Secretariat's note, voiced support for the project referred to in paragraph 16, which stressed the importance of identifying the training needs of countries in the region, but concerning paragraph 20, he felt that it was necessary to determine first the types of training needed in order to refine the training programmes. He suggested that such an approach might permit better utilization of the scarce resources available.

47. The observer for the CCC outlined the Council's two major initiatives now underway to develop training programme modules. He also reported that the CCC had signed agreements with the International Chamber of Shipping and the International Air Transport Association, providing for joint training activities.

48. One delegate said that the meeting should call on States with adequate resources to meet the training requirements of Latin American and Caribbean countries. He stressed the need to exchange relevant publications among regional drug control bodies.

49. The observers for ASEP and the OAS recalled an agreement they had signed in August 1987 to collaborate in the field of training. The OAS was preparing a directory of all institutions engaged in drug control activities in the region, which would be distributed to all States and organizations concerned in 1988. This project was commended by many participants since it would help to avoid duplication of efforts in interdicting illicit traffic.

50. The observer for ASEP, referring to the Division's note, drew attention to the training activities undertaken under the auspices of ASEP since its inception. He stressed ASEP's readiness to share its experience, expertise and facilities in efforts to promote more effective action against the illicit traffic through training programmes.

51. The representative of Chile presented a draft resolution proposing a course on multilateral conventions against illicit drug traffic. He said that efficient law enforcement depended on the training given to police forces. Since several conventions relating to that topic contained provisions for improved international co-operation, of which police forces were unfortunately unaware, the Chilean Criminal Investigation Department suggested organizing a course for the police forces of Latin America and the Caribbean. (For the text, see chapter I, draft resolution V).

52. The representative of Peru proposed that the Regional Centre for Training Instructors for Counteracting the Illicit Drug Traffic, which had its headquarters in Lima and functioned within ASEP, should broaden its participation to include police officers from the entire region of Latin America and the Caribbean.

CHAPTER V

PREPARATION OF A DRAFT CONVENTION AGAINST ILLICIT TRAFFIC IN NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES

53. In its consideration of agenda item 6, "Preparation of the draft convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances", the meeting had before it a document of the same title prepared by the Division of Narcotic Drugs (E/CN.7/1987/2) and a "Working document on the draft convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances" (DND/DCIT/WP.1).

54. Introducing the item, the Director of the Division said that the two most important United Nations drug control activities in recent times were the preparation of the draft convention and the organization of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (Vienna, 1987). The draft convention had been a Latin American initiative, formally introduced by Venezuela following the Quito, Lima and New York declarations. The preliminary draft, prepared by the Division at the request of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, was contained in document E/CN.7/1987/2. The Director then outlined the main elements of the draft and the intensive work that had brought it to its present advanced stage. He said that the most constructive action that the HONLEA members could take was to bring back to their Governments the expressed wish of the meeting that all States examine their existing legislation with a view to harmonizing it with the new convention. Such harmonization would greatly facilitate early ratification of the draft convention when it was eventually adopted.

55. All speakers addressing the item were in general agreement on the importance of adapting and harmonizing national drug law enforcement legislation in order to ensure that it would be compatible with the new convention before that instrument opened for ratification. They welcomed the prospect of the new convention which they recognized as an essential step towards improving international co-operation in drug law enforcement.

56. Some representatives and observers recalled the difficulties experienced by many States in ratifying the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, and other multilateral drug control agreements and urged participants to take action now to avoid similar difficulties with the new convention.

57. Two representatives emphasized both the importance of and the difficulties likely to be encountered in the application of article 4 (on extradition). One representative said that when an effective extradition treaty had been in force in his country the level of illicit drug trafficking had dropped significantly; unfortunately, that treaty had been declared invalid by the Supreme Court and was therefore not currently in force. Another representative said that the draft convention should make provision for the involvement of Interpol in extradition matters; the representative of Interpol might take up that question with his Headquarters. The Director of the Division of Narcotic Drugs noted that a further expert group meeting on the draft convention would be held at Vienna from 5 to 16 October 1987, which would consider all legislative counter-measures which had so far proved effective, for inclusion in the new convention.

58. The observer for Interpol spoke of the increasing links between terrorism and illicit drug trafficking and described in detail several narco-terrorist incidents that had taken place in 1987. One representative expressed concern that the term "reasonable grounds to believe" as used in article 12 of the draft convention could lead to problems. Two representatives said that the provisions in article 8 concerning control of chemicals and reagents essential to the illicit manufacture of drugs were of great importance. They said that effective control of such precursors could only be obtained through international legislation. The importance of urgently adapting and harmonizing national drug law enforcement legislation in line with the new convention was reiterated. One representative said that his Government was already taking action to that end.

59. Summing up, the Director of the Division of Narcotic Drugs said that the expression "reasonable grounds to believe" had been the subject of heated discussion during the first meeting of the open-ended intergovernmental expert group to consider the draft convention, but noted that, in the end, a high degree of consensus had been reached. He recalled that Governments had been asked to send their best experts to the expert group meetings. The Commission, when it met in February 1988, would examine the latest draft of the convention. There was hope, he said, that the convention would be adopted later in the same year.

CHAPTER VI

FOLLOW-UP ACTION TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING (ICDAIT)

60. In its consideration of agenda item 7, "Follow-up action to the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking", the meeting had before it the report of the Conference (A/CONF.133/12) which contained the various decisions adopted by the Conference, especially the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control and the Declaration of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

61. The Secretary read out a message from the Secretary General of the Conference expressing appreciation of the efforts made in the region to combat illicit traffic in drugs. The Secretary General had emphasized that "we must all work together to solve these complex problems and make it quite clear that the international community will not tolerate the activities of multinational gangs of illicit producers and traffickers who make huge profits at the cost of the misery of addicts and who continue to mock the existing national laws and legal systems".

62. The Director of the Division of Narcotic Drugs enumerated the main points of the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline most directly related to the HONLEA meeting, noting that chapter III, on the suppression of illicit trafficking, was particularly worthy of attention. He said that most of the objectives identified in the Outline were already reflected in the text of the draft convention prepared by the Division at the request of the Commission in 1986. That convention would be of a binding nature when ratified, whereas the documents adopted by the Conference were of an optional nature. He regretted that, because of the economic crisis affecting the United Nations, the consequent lack of human and financial resources would make it difficult to implement in full all the recommended activities and programmes. It might perhaps be possible to seek special donations in order to increase the extra-budgetary resources and thus raise the activities of the Division to the level desired.

63. Several delegates expressed their satisfaction with the documents adopted at the Conference. They saw them as an ethical and moral arm for combating drug abuse. They placed particular emphasis on the principle of collective responsibility contained in the Declaration.

CHAPTER VII

FUTURE MEETINGS OF HEADS OF NATIONAL DRUG LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES (HONLEA), LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN REGION

64. All delegates who spoke on this matter expressed the need for regular HONLEA meetings for the region. It was agreed that in view of the need to gather momentum in the efforts to strengthen co-operation within the region, the next meeting should take place during the second half of 1988.

65. One representative, while voicing strong support for the proposal, stated his understanding that the meeting would be financed from within existing United Nations resources or voluntary contributions.

66. The representative of Peru offered the host the next meeting at Lima. Argentina also announced its readiness to host the meeting, but withdrew its proposal in favour of Peru and offered to host one in 1989. The Peruvian proposal was adopted by acclamation. Participants agreed to defer the question of the frequency of future HONLEAs for the region to the 1988 meeting. The meeting adopted by consensus a draft recommendation entitled "Place and date of the Second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Latin American and Caribbean Region". (For the text, see chapter I, draft resolution IX.)

CHAPTER VIII

ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

A. Opening and duration of the meeting

67. The first meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Latin American and Caribbean Region, was held at Santiago, Chile, from 28 September to 2 October 1987, in compliance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/34 of 27 May 1987.

68. The Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) opening the meeting on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, said that drug abuse and the illicit traffic constituted a growing threat to the health, well-being and security of the people of the region - and the world. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the economic, social and political significance of drugs had increased rapidly. In some cases, a real drug economy had been created over which little control could be exercised. Drug production, traffic and use also militated against social organization. Concerted action was needed on the part of those countries where drugs were produced or distributed and those in which they were consumed.

69. A message was read from the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna in her capacity as co-ordinator of all United Nations drug-control-related activities. She noted that because of the unprecedented increase in drug abuse and illicit trafficking, drug traffic had become a matter of great concern at high levels of Government and, in some cases, was even an issue of State. It was essential, therefore, to redouble efforts to prevent addiction and to strengthen international co-operation in the struggle against drug traffic.

70. The Director of the Division of Narcotic Drugs observed that for many years the Division had been promoting regional co-ordination aimed at increasing the effectiveness of the struggle against the illicit traffic. No country acting in isolation from the rest of the world could solve the problems associated with drug abuse and the illicit traffic. It was only through close international co-operation that solutions could be expected to be found.

B. Attendance

71. The meeting was attended by representatives of 23 States members and 1 State associate member of ECLAC; and by observers from 4 intergovernmental organizations and the United Nations. The Division of Narcotic Drugs acted as secretariat. The list of participants is contained in the annex to this report.

C. Election of officers

72. The following officers were elected:

Chairman:	Fernando Paredes Pizarro	(Chile)
First Vice Chairman:	Juan Carlos Delconte	(Argentina)
Second Vice Chairman:	David Jack	(Trinidad and Tobago)
Third Vice Chairman:	Jorge Alderete Rosales	(Bolivia)
Rapporteur:	Luis Lamas Puccio	(Peru)

73. The Chairman (Director General of the Criminal Investigation Department of Chile) expressed his appreciation at the evident interest of the participants and for their desire to adopt effective measures to eradicate the scourge of drug trafficking. Although in many countries, drug trafficking and consumption were a cause of anguish and concern, the holding of the present meeting and the work of other organizations on the five continents had made it possible to look to the future with confidence and optimism, he said.

D. Agenda

74. The agenda, as adopted by the meeting, was as follows:

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Current trends in the illicit drug traffic
4. Measures for improving co-operation in applying co-ordinated counter-measures within the region
5. Co-operation in the development and promotion of more effective action against the illicit drug traffic through training programmes
6. Preparation of the draft convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances
7. Follow-up action to the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
8. Other business
9. Conclusions and recommendations.

Annex

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Members of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Argentina	Juan Carlos Delconte, Amadeo Luis Farias, Nelson José Mandrile, Sixto Bernardez, Rodolfo Oscar López, Jorge Vásquez, Carlos Alberto Castelli, Ricardo Enrique Trebino
Bahamas	Wilton Strachan
Bolivia	Jorge Alderete Rosales, Sergio Mollinedo
Brazil	Paulo Magalhaes Pinto, Oscar Andrade Mota, Miguel G. de Paiva Torres
Canada	Alfredo Michaud, Lyle Foster
Chile	Fernando Paredes Pizarro, Juan Inostroza Jara, Mario Mengozzi Solar, Carlos Wise Pozo, Pedro Estay Cerda, Armando Muñoz Moreno, Guillermo Suárez Kalise, Luis Riffo Pardo, Eduardo Riquelme, José Castro Muñoz, Rolando González Rovegno, Miguel Angel Rojas M., Juan Carlos Sepúlveda Soto, Mario L. Muñoz, Ignacio Contreras Saintari, Sergio Villagrán J., Germán Ibarra Hidalgo, Carlos Rolando González H.,
Colombia	Jaime Gutiérrez Sanchez, Mauricio Avila
Costa Rica	Gerardo Jiménez
Dominican Republic	Ramón González Contreras
Ecuador	Plutarco López
France	Jean Carrere
Guatemala	Guillermo Meneses
Honduras	Ramón Yáñez E.
Jamaica	R.B. Taylor
Netherlands	H. Van Hees
Netherlands Antilles*	W. A. Tweeboom
Paraguay	Inocencio Montiel Cabrera
Peru	Alejandro Mesías Ruiz, José Antonio Bellina Acevedo, Luis Lamas Puccio, Alvaro Ganoza S.

*Associate member.

Spain	Juan Chicón Jiménez
Trinidad and Tobago	David Jack
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Desmond Joseph Logan
United States of America	Thomas Kelly, Jerrold Mark Dion, Francis Keating, James Mc Shane, Charles Saphos, Johnny Phelps, John Trainer, Dianne Graham
Uruguay	Homero Vaz B.
Venezuela	Luis Ramón Contreras Laguado, Mauro Yáñez Pasarella, Osvaldo Granadillo, Leonel Avila Olivares, Rafael Angel Chacón

Intergovernmental organizations

South American Agreement on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (ASEP): Carlos Alberto Cagliotti; Customs Co-operation Council (CCC): Michael Lane; International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO/Interpol): Juan Carlos Antoniassi; Organization of American States (OAS): Irving C. Tragen.